

Appl. No. 10/666,493

Reply to Final Office Action of January 25, 2006

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

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1. (Currently amended) A wet processing apparatus comprising:  
a tank to contain a fluid;  
a drain opening in said tank; and  
a regulating means with slats and openings disposed in said tank and over said drain opening, wherein one of said slats substantially covers said drain opening to control downward draining rate and downward draining direction of said fluid.
  2. (Original) The apparatus according to Claim 1 wherein said drain opening is located on the bottom surface of said tank.
  3. (Original) The apparatus according to Claim 1 wherein said fluid comprises de-ionized water.
  4. (Original) The apparatus according to Claim 1 further comprising a cassette configured to hold a plurality of integrated circuit wafers in said processing region.
  5. (Original) The apparatus according to Claim 1 wherein said regulating means comprises a regulating plate dividing said tank into a processing region and a draining region, and wherein, during draining, fluid in said tank flows from said processing region through said regulating plate, through said draining region, and out said drain opening.
  6. (Original) The apparatus according to Claim 5 wherein said regulating plate comprises polyetheretherkefone (PEEK).
  7. (Currently amended) The apparatus according to Claim 1 wherein said openings comprise ~~slats or~~ holes.